



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

August 2012

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Residents and Businesses Encouraged to Provide Feedback Through Emergency Information Survey

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is asking for feedback from county residents and businesses to help assess the county's response to the June 29 derecho storm that affected the county and the National Capital Region. To find out about the county's strengths as well as opportunity areas for improvement, we are asking you to fill out an online emergency information survey. It should only take a few minutes. This survey is part of the official review of the storm response and input from residents and businesses will be invaluable. It will be used for OEM's after-action report on the derecho event and how Fairfax County Government responded. Emergency communications are critical before, during and after incidents that affect our community. A variety of entities and people are part of that process such as Fairfax County Government, utility companies, the commonwealth of Virginia, the private sector and others. This survey focuses on Fairfax County Government. "We're asking for every resident to provide input, as well as business owners," said David McKernan, coordinator for the Office of Emergency Management. "It's important for us as emergency planners to learn how this storm affected our residents, businesses and infrastructure so that we can implement corrective measures and plans for a better response for future storms." To take the survey, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/fairfaxemergencyinfo>.

CDC Introduces Disease of the Week Application

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently updated its iPad application to include a Disease of the Week feature. This new addition will allow users to explore a new topic each week to learn key facts and prevention tips, view images, and videos and take interactive quizzes to test what you've learned. Along with this new feature, the iPad application includes a variety of significant information including CDC Health articles, CDC Vital Signs, CDC Preventing Chronic Disease Journal, MMWR, and CDC's Public Health Matters blog. Users are also able to connect with CDC's social media channels and listen to the extensive library of podcasts. The iPad application can be downloaded from the iTunes app store at

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/cdc/id487847188?ls=1&mt=8>.



The Official Red Cross Hurricane App

Be ready for severe weather with Hurricane by American Red Cross. Monitor conditions in your area or throughout the storm track, prepare your family and home, find help and let others know you are safe even if the power is out – a must have for anyone who lives in an area where a hurricane may strike or has loved ones who do. Features include:

- One touch "I'm safe" messaging that allows users to broadcast reassurance to family and friends via social media outlets that they are out of harm's way.
- Location-based NOAA weather alerts for the United States and its territories users can share on social networks.
- Remote monitoring of personalized



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- weather alerts where family and friends reside.
- Locations of open Red Cross shelters.
- Simple steps and checklists people can use to create a family emergency plan.
- Preloaded content that gives users instant access to critical action steps even without mobile connectivity.
- Toolkit with flashlight, strobe light and audible alarm.
- Badges users can earn through interactive quizzes and share on social networks.

Get the app for iPhone or Android devices or search the iTunes or Google Play app store for “Hurricane by American Red Cross.”

<http://www.redcross.org/hurricaneapp>

West Nile Virus Disease Cases Up this Year

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is urging people to take steps to prevent West Nile virus infections. Outbreaks of West Nile virus disease occur each summer in the United States. This year, some areas of the country are experiencing earlier and greater activity. Thus far in 2012, 42 states have reported West Nile virus infections in people, birds, or mosquitoes. A total of 241 cases of West Nile virus disease, including four deaths, have been reported to CDC. This is the highest number of cases reported through the end of July since 2004. Almost 80 percent of the cases have been reported from three states, Texas, Mississippi and Oklahoma. West Nile virus is transmitted to people by infected mosquitoes. In the United States, most people are infected from June through September, and the number of these infections usually peaks in mid-August. Seasonal outbreaks often occur in local areas that can vary from year to year. Many factors impact when and where outbreaks occur, such as weather, numbers of mosquitoes that spread the virus, and human behavior.

http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2012/p0801_west_nile.html

New COVEOP Now Available

By Executive Order, Gov. Bob McDonnell has formally issued a new version of the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (COVEOP), dated August 2012. The plan provides the foundation for emergency planning and preparedness and establishes the organizational framework and operational concepts of responding to and recovering from an emergency or disaster. It is posted on the Virginia Department of Emergency Management website at <http://www.vaemergency.gov/em-community/plans/2012COVEOP>. Gov. McDonnell’s action, taken Aug. 20, means that the new COVEOP supersedes all previous versions. Any old hard copies should be destroyed. Use the above website address for the current version, and delete any previous electronic links. The entire COVEOP underwent a comprehensive review and update by Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT) agencies as well as nongovernmental and private sector partners. Of special note, the Hurricane and Tropical Storm Response Annex has been revised significantly.

This September, Pledge to Prepare for Emergencies

September is National Preparedness Month, an annual nationwide effort to encourage Americans to plan and prepare for emergencies. “Unfortunately, within the past 14 months, just about every Virginian has experienced tornados, the historic Mineral earthquake, Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee or the recent severe derecho wind storm,” said Michael Cline, state coordinator of emergency management. “These are all powerful reminders that each of us is responsible to be ready for both predicted and unexpected emergencies. If you are not ready, you can pledge to prepare during September.”

<http://www.vaemergency.gov/news/news-releases/2012/national-preparedness-month>



In the Pantheon of Deadly Weather Events, Heat Waves Rule

When it comes to gnarly weather, tornadoes, blizzards and hurricanes seem to get most of our attention, perhaps

because their destructive power makes for imagery the media can't ignore. But for sheer killing power, heat waves do in far more people than even the most devastating hurricane. Ask medical historian Richard Keller. Keller, a University of Wisconsin-Madison professor of medical history and bioethics, is compiling a detailed account of the epic 2003 heat wave that broiled parts of Europe that summer and killed an estimated 70,000 people. During the course of three excruciating weeks in August of that year, a massive high-pressure system parked over Europe, producing the hottest summer weather in more than 500 years and leading to most of those fatalities. It was so hot electrical cables melted, nuclear reactors could not be cooled, water pumps failed, and museum specimens liquefied. By comparison, Hurricane Katrina and its floods, which devastated New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in 2005, exacted a death toll of 1,836 people.

<http://www.news.wisc.edu/20929>

Updated Hurricane Seasonal Forecast

The Colorado State University's Department of Atmospheric Science has released their updated forecast for the Atlantic hurricane season. Ten additional named storms are predicted with five reaching hurricane strength and two of those becoming major hurricanes. They continue to predict a slightly-below average hurricane season overall, but the forecast is a slight increase from their June update. A slower-than-anticipated onset of El Niño and somewhat more favorable conditions in the Atlantic have caused the university to increase their forecast slightly

<http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts/>

Nation's Youth Gather in Washington for Community Preparedness Roundtable

Members of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Youth Preparedness Council held their inaugural meeting in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 6, to discuss steps to strengthen the nation's resiliency against all types of disasters. "This has been an opportunity for members of the Youth Preparedness Council to share their ideas, experiences, solutions and questions on youth disaster preparedness with FEMA, other federal agencies and national organizations," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "Engaging youth is critical to including the whole community in national preparedness. The Youth Preparedness Council is contributing to set a national agenda for how young people play a role in emergency management." The Council members participated in roundtable discussions and plenary sessions on the first day of their two-day visit to the nation's capital. The Council will also meet with Administrator Fugate and discuss steps to strengthen the nation's overall resiliency. In addition to developing their annual work plan to address youth preparedness during national disasters, the Council is meeting with other federal and private sector partners committed to supporting their work.

<http://www.fema.gov/news-release/nations-youth-gather-washington-community-preparedness-roundtable>

National Strategy for Biosurveillance

The National Strategy for Biosurveillance sets forth the United States Government approach to strengthen the national biosurveillance enterprise and describes a core set of functions critical to this strategy's success. The approach builds on existing biosurveillance concepts and capabilities in seeking to enable more rapid detection, knowledge, and characterization of human, animal or plant disease activity to enhance incident situational awareness. At the same time, this Strategy outlines an approach that is more selective and deliberate in its intent.

The Strategy defines biosurveillance as the process of gathering, integrating, interpreting, and communicating essential information related to all-hazards threats or disease activity affecting human, animal, or plant health to achieve early detection and warning, contribute to overall situational awareness of the health aspects of an incident, and to enable better decision-making at all levels. This definition is consistent with that of Homeland Security Presidential Directive-21 and now emphasizes an all-hazards scope and informed decisionmaking.¹ This National Biosurveillance Strategy flows from the National Security Strategy, which highlights the importance of disease surveillance for public health threats, and is consistent with the National Strategy for Countering Biological Threats, which emphasizes information sharing among Federal departments and agencies to identify biological threats.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/National_Strategy_for_Biosurveillance_July_2012.pdf

USFA Releases New Report on Clothes Dryer Fires in Residential Buildings

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) issued a special report this month examining the characteristics of clothes dryer fires in residential buildings. The report, "Clothes Dryer

Fires in Residential Buildings,” was developed by USFA’s National Fire Data Center and is based on 2008 to 2010 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). According to the report:

- An estimated 2,900 clothes dryer fires in residential buildings are reported to U.S. fire departments each year and cause an estimated 5 deaths, 100 injuries, and \$35 million in property loss.
- Clothes dryer fire incidence in residential buildings was higher in the fall and winter months, peaking in January at 11 percent.
- Failure to clean (34 percent) was the leading factor contributing to the ignition of clothes dryer fires in residential buildings.
- Dust, fiber, and lint (28 percent) and clothing not on a person (27 percent) were, by far, the leading items first ignited in clothes dryer fires in residential buildings.
- Fifty-four percent of clothes dryer fires in residential buildings were confined to the object of origin.

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2012releases/080712.shtm>

July 2012: Hottest Month on Record for Contiguous United States

Drought expands to cover nearly 63 percent of the Lower 48; wildfires consume 2 million acres

The average temperature for the contiguous U.S. during July was 77.6°F, 3.3°F above the 20th century average, marking the hottest July and the hottest month on record for the nation. The previous warmest July for the nation was July 1936 when the average U.S. temperature was 77.4°F. The warm July temperatures contributed to a record-warm first seven months of the year and the warmest 12-month period the nation has experienced since recordkeeping began in 1895. Precipitation totals were mixed during July, with the contiguous U.S. as a whole being drier than average. The nationally averaged precipitation total of 2.57 inches was 0.19 inch below average. Near-record dry conditions were present for the middle of the nation, with the drought footprint expanding to cover nearly 63 percent of the Lower 48, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor (<http://www.drought.gov/>).

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/>

Americans’ Views of TSA More Positive than Negative

Despite recent negative press, a majority of Americans, 54 percent, think the U.S. Transportation Security Administration is doing either an excellent or a good job of handling security screening at airports. At the same time, 41 percent think TSA screening procedures are extremely or very effective at preventing acts of terrorism on U.S. airplanes, with most of the rest saying they are somewhat effective. The TSA in recent months has come under increased scrutiny, with some members of Congress calling for the agency to be privatized or disbanded. However, the current survey results, from Gallup interviewing conducted July 9-12, indicate that the average American has a more positive than negative impression of the TSA, even if the average American is not totally confident in the effectiveness of its procedures.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/156491/Americans-Views-TSA-Positive-Negative.aspx>

NWS Open House

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Sterling, Va., is hosting an open house on Sept. 22-23. The theme of the open house is “Building a Weather Ready Nation” and includes events such as weather balloon launches, weather experiments and presentations on how warnings and weather forecasts are made.

http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/lwx/openhouse/NWS_Sterling_OpenHouse2012_flyer.JPG

Verizon Says it Responded Poorly to June Storm

Verizon is acknowledging widespread failures in its 9-1-1 emergency backup systems during a June storm that hit the Washington region. The report and Verizon officials say they did not know the system was out in Fairfax County until the county alerted them. It also admits problems with Arlington County’s 9-1-1 system that the company had previously denied. The report also says drained batteries, faulty generators and a failure of staff to fully explore the problem contributed to delays in restoring full 9-1-1 service.

Report: <http://ftpcontent.worldnow.com/wttg/documents/Verizon911OutagesReport.pdf>

Monitor Tropical Storms and Learn How to Prepare

With forecasts of tropical storms or hurricanes, it’s important for residents to stay tuned to local news and always

evacuate when instructed to. Take time this month to ensure you:

- Have an adequate communication plan with friends and family.
- Identify hurricane evacuation routes.
- Gather supplies including a battery- powered radio, extra batteries, flashlight, cell phone chargers, medications, non-perishable food and first aid items for family and pets.

Remember, hurricanes also bring flooding. Flooding can occur two ways: gradually or very suddenly. If you are in an area where there is a chance flooding can occur very suddenly, which is also known as a “flash flood,” move immediately to higher ground. Avoid walking or driving through any flooded areas – it only takes six inches of fast-moving flood water to knock over an adult and two feet to move a vehicle. Knowing likely risks for your area, whether wildfires, earthquakes, or tornados, and knowing what to do when a disaster strikes is a critical part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds matter. Use the links below to make your family, business and community safer, more resilient and better prepared for any disaster event.

What to do before, during, and after a hurricane or tropical storm:

- On your computer: <http://www.Ready.gov/hurricanes>
- On your phone: m.fema.gov or on the FEMA app (<https://www.fema.gov/smartphone-app>)

Latest forecasts from the National Hurricane Center:

- On your computer: <http://www.hurricanes.gov>
- On your phone: <http://hurricanes.gov/mobile>
- On Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/NHC_Atlantic
- On Facebook: www.facebook.com/US.NOAA.NationalHurricaneCenter.gov



PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

National Terrorism Advisory System

The Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) is a robust terrorism advisory system that provides timely information to the public about credible terrorist threats and replaces the former color-coded alert system. Under NTAS, DHS will coordinate with other federal entities to issue detailed alerts to the public when the federal government receives information about a credible terrorist threat. NTAS alerts provide a concise summary of the potential threat including geographic region, mode of transportation, or critical infrastructure potentially affected by the threat, actions being taken to ensure public safety, as well as recommended steps that individuals, communities, business and governments can take to help prevent, mitigate or respond to a threat. NTAS Alerts will include a clear statement on the nature of the threat, which will be defined in one of two ways:

- “Elevated Threat”: Warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States.
- “Imminent Threat”: Warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States.

Depending on the nature of the threat, alerts may be sent to law enforcement, distributed to affected areas of the private sector, or issued more broadly to the public through both official and social media channels – including a

designated DHS webpage (www.dhs.gov/alerts), Facebook and via Twitter @NTASAlerts. NTAS alerts and posters will also be displayed in places such as transit hubs, airports and government buildings. NTAS threat alerts will be issued for a specific time period and will automatically expire. Alerts may be extended if new information becomes available or as a specific threat evolves. For more information on the National Terrorism Advisory System or to receive NTAS alerts, visit www.dhs.gov/alerts.



Webinar: Is Your Business Prepared for the Next Emergency?

Disasters can affect anyone at any time. Find out what your business can do now to prepare for the next emergency. Join the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) for the “Prepare Your Business for the Next Emergency” Webinar on Wednesday, Sept. 26, from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Among the topics:

- Introduction to Emergency Management
- A Look at Emergencies the Past Year
- Business Preparedness
- Employee Preparedness

Businesses and entrepreneurs are encouraged to register for the Webinar. For additional information, contact OEM at 571-350-1000, TTY 711; email <mailto:oem@fairfaxcounty.gov>. Register for the Webinar at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/webinar.htm

Fairfax Prepares: 30 Ways in 30 Days

September is National Preparedness Month. What better time to prepare yourself and your family. Don't know how? No worries. Fairfax County is providing daily emergency preparedness tips and instructions during “Fairfax Prepares: 30 Ways in 30 Days.” Visit the emergency information blog for a tip a day – or sign up to receive the articles by email or RSS – at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog.



Preparedness Training for Everyone

Are you looking for great, engaging and short preparedness activities? If so, we encourage you to take the **IS-909 - Community Preparedness: Implementing Simple Activities for Everyone** course and download materials to help make preparedness engaging and conversational. The course is comprised of 16 preparedness modules on topics ranging from preparedness on a budget to fire extinguisher operation and includes specific topics such as disaster planning for a pet or service animal. Among other materials available, is a comprehensive Program Leaders guide for those just starting a neighborhood preparedness effort, as well as a **FREE** online training developed with the Emergency Management Institute.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is909.asp>

Hurricane Andrew 20th Anniversary A Reminder To Prepare For Emergencies

Aug. 24 marked 20 years since Hurricane Andrew made landfall in South Florida, devastating Homestead, Florida City, and parts of Miami. Hurricane Andrew's anniversary is a reminder that now is the time to get ready for disasters and other emergencies. Next month marks the ninth annual National Preparedness Month, and this year's slogan is “Pledge to Prepare”. Individuals, families, and organizations in all sectors can support this effort and find resources on emergency preparedness by ‘pledging’ on the National Preparedness Coalition Online Community.

<http://www.fema.gov/news-release/hurricane-andrew-20th-anniversary-reminder-prepare-emergencies>

National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month. Pledge to Prepare by joining the National Preparedness Coalition now! Empower yourself and help coordinate preparedness activities for your family, neighbors and co-workers and those with whom you may study or worship.

<http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM>

Most U.S. Small Businesses Lack Disaster-recovery Plans

More than 60 percent of U.S. small businesses do not have a formal emergency-response plan and fail to back up

their financial data off-site, leaving them vulnerable to catastrophic data loss in the event of a natural disaster. The “Small Business Disaster Preparedness Study,” conducted by software maker Sage North America, found that while 94 percent of small U.S. businesses back up the financial information stored on their computer systems, most of them store their backups on-site. For these companies, a flood, fire or earthquake that destroys their office and primary computer system could destroy their back-up data as well. That would cost the business access to crucial information and could imperil its ability to survive.



<http://www.cgma.org/Magazine/News/Pages/20126135.aspx>

Small Business Disaster Preparedness Study: <http://na.sage.com/sage-na/newsroom/~media/site/sagenet/documents/surveys/sage%20survey%202012%20backup%20report>

Emergency Alerts

Get emergency alerts from Fairfax County by signing up for the Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN). Alerts will be sent to all registered devices, including email, cellphone and pager. Register for several categories of alerts as well, including severe traffic, weather and county government closings/delays. Register for alerts at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean.



Survey Shows Americans Take Their Chances and Ignore Evacuation Orders When Disaster Approaches

Americans and emergency management experts agree on one thing. Over the past few years, the U.S. has experienced a record number of natural disasters that have destroyed neighborhoods and cost lives. In fact, the Federal Emergency Management Agency made 99 major disaster declarations in 2011, the most mega catastrophes declared since 1953. What is even more concerning is what citizens are doing - or not doing - in the wake of an approaching catastrophe. A new survey from Allstate shows more than one-in-four (27 percent) Americans say they would ignore evacuation orders and wait until absolutely necessary before leaving their home or seeking shelter in the event of an imminent natural disaster. According to the Allstate survey, 21 percent of Americans have had their homes damaged by natural disasters. However, this elevated level of disasters and property damage have not been a call to action for many. Not only are people willing to take their chances with an approaching catastrophe, they may not be as prepared as they should be. Americans' lack of evacuation plans and procedures are a cause for concern. Nearly half (46 percent) of survey respondents say they have not thought about or even discussed an evacuation plan or meeting place away from the home for their family. These plans are crucial and should be discussed with relatives and neighbors in advance of a catastrophe.

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/survey-shows-some-americans-take-their-chances-and-ignore-evacuation-orders-when-disaster-approaches-2012-08-07>

National 811 Day

Saturday, Aug. 11, was National 811 Day. It served as a reminder to all homeowners and professional excavators of the importance of calling 811 before beginning any digging or demolishing project. A simple and free call to 811 connects you to Miss Utility of Virginia, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of your intent to dig. From there, utility locators come to your project area in the time allowed by law to mark the approximate location of the underground utility lines by means of paint, stakes, or flags. Once marked, hand digging is required within 24 inches of these marks. The State Corporation Commission (SCC) is the agency responsible for enforcing the Virginia Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act. Miss Utility of Virginia is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding legal state and national holidays. However, emergency notifications can be made 365 days a year, 24-hours-a-day. Virginia's C.A.R.E. message reminds you to call Miss Utility at 811 and avoid damage to underground utility lines. C.A.R.E. means:

- Call Miss Utility at 811 before you dig.
- Allow the required time for marking.
- Respect and protect the marks.

- Excavate carefully.

To learn more about “Digging with C.A.R.E.” and Virginia’s damage prevention program, contact the SCC’s Division of Utility and Railroad Safety at 804-371-9980, or visit the division’s website at www.scc.virginia.gov/urs/mutility/index.aspx.
http://scc.virginia.gov/newsrel/u_811day_12.aspx

Tips for Business Continuity Beginners

Without a business continuity program in place, even a minor disruption to systems, facilities or other key resources can potentially halt operations, impact customers or harm the financials of an organization. Therefore, it’s essential for organizations to understand how an unplanned outage would impact their business and know the steps they need to take to respond effectively. This requires a holistic view not only of threats to availability but also threats to a business continuity program’s continued viability. To provide a starting point for those new to the subject of business continuity the following list offers seven essential components of a successful business continuity plan:

- Conduct a business impact analysis.
- Your business continuity plan needs to be a living document.
- Don’t plan in a vacuum.
- Bridge the gap between business and IT.
- Not all employees will be available.
- Test your business continuity plan.
- Consider the benefits of business continuity management software.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/feature1003.html>

Hurricanes That Pass Over Fresh Water Can Be Stronger

If a hurricane’s path carries it over large areas of fresh water, it will potentially intensify 50 percent faster than those that do not pass over such regions, meaning it has greater potential to become a stronger storm and be more devastating, according to a study co-written by a group of researchers at Texas A&M University. Ping Chang, professor of oceanography and atmospheric sciences and director of the Texas Center for Climate Studies, along with his former student, Karthik Balaguru, now at the Department of Energy’s Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, are the lead authors of a paper in the current issue of PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences). Their findings could benefit weather experts as they try to predict the path and strength of a hurricane, noting that about 60 percent of the world’s population resides in areas that are prone to hurricanes or cyclones. Chang and Balaguru and their colleagues examined Tropical Cyclones for the decade 1998-2007, which includes about 587 storms, paying particular attention to Hurricane Omar. Omar was a Category 4 hurricane that formed in 2008 and eventually caused about \$80 million in damages in the south Caribbean area. They analyzed data from the oceanic region under the storm, including the salt and temperature structure of the water and other factors that played a part in the storm’s intensity.

<http://tamutimes.tamu.edu/2012/08/13/hurricanes-that-pass-over-fresh-water-can-be-stronger/>

Could a Hurricane Take Down the Internet?

It wasn’t too long ago that a freak storm in Virginia took down Amazon’s cloud servers, and along with it, Instagram, Pinterest and other popular websites. The outages, which came amid a brutal heat wave, left thousands without power and thousands more irritated at the absence of some much-beloved web services. But was the event a one-time thing or a harbinger of worse Internet catastrophes to come? Slashdot.org has looked into the question of just how vulnerable the web is to freak weather events. The answer? More so than you might think.

<http://mashable.com/2012/08/14/could-a-hurricane-take-down-the-internet-infographic/>

Get Your Business Ready For Any Kind of Disaster with Free National Preparedness Month Webinar Series

This summer millions of business across the country were forced to close their doors in the aftermath of power outages, approaching wildfires, and flooding caused by tropical storms. Business interruptions, even if it lasts just a few hours, cost business owners greatly in terms of lost productivity and profits. You can get help with your own business preparedness planning through a series of free webinars hosted by the U.S. Small Business Administration and Agility Recovery. The September series is presented in collaboration with FEMA’s Ready Campaign, as part of

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National Preparedness Month. SBA wants to help business owners take charge of the well-being of their own companies, the safety of their employees, and the sustenance of their local economies by being prepared to rebound quickly from any kind of disaster. Here's a list of the webinars, held each Wednesday in September at 2 p.m. ET:

- Sept. 5: "10 Steps to Prepare Any Organization for Disaster" with an introduction from James Rivera, Associate Administrator for SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance.
- Sept. 12: "Protecting Your Organization by Preparing Your Employees"
- Sept. 19: "Utilization of Social Media During a Crisis"
- Sept. 26: "Surviving a Crisis, Large or Small: Real Life Lessons Learned" Business owners who recovered from disasters discuss their proactive emergency planning.

A question and answer session will follow each of the presentations. Go to <http://www2.agilityrecovery.com/npm> to register for any of the webinars. SBA has partnered with Agility to offer business continuity strategies through their "PrepareMyBusiness" website. Visit www.preparemybusiness.org to access past webinars and for useful preparedness tools.

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Would NG9-1-1 Have Prevented Derecho-caused Outage?

Following a late June violent and fast-moving storm that left an estimated 2.3 million Northern Virginia residents without 9-1-1 service for as many as 4 days, the Federal Communications Commission issued on Aug. 1, a notice of inquiry seeking further information on its causes and effects. Failures of the 9-1-1 system as a result of the fast-moving storm – which also killed 22 people and left 4.3 million without power for days, some for weeks – “also give rise to concerns and questions about the reliability and resiliency of our 9-1-1 communications networks nationwide,” the FCC notice of inquiry states. Among the questions the inquiry seeks to answer is whether deployment of Next Generation 9-1-1, which would incorporate Internet protocol into the 9-1-1 system framework, will improve reliability. In today's tough budget climate, government agencies are challenged to develop technology investment strategies that maximize process improvement and cost savings. NG9-1-1, the inquiry notes, could create the ability to utilize a virtual public-safety answering point (i.e., the call center where emergency calls get answered). Today's PSAPs are very much brick-and-mortar affairs, but in a NG9-1-1 network, a call taker would be able to answer a 9-1-1 call from virtually any location.

<http://www.fiercehomelandsecurity.com/story/would-ng9-1-1-have-prevented-derecho-caused-outage/2012-08-02>

FCC Notice of Inquiry: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/08/01/2012-18805/9-1-1-resiliency-and-reliability-in-wake-of-june-29-2012-derecho-storm-in-central-mid-atlantic-and>

FCC Official: 9-1-1 Outages From Derecho Storms “unacceptable”

Carrier network and public-safety answering point (PSAP) outages that prevented millions of citizens in the eastern United States from accessing 911 systems for extended periods of time in the aftermath of June derecho storms is “simply unacceptable” an FCC bureau chief said recently during a session at the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) show.

<http://urgentcomm.com/psap/news/911-outages-derecho-storms-20120821/>

Extreme Rain Storms More Frequent in Virginia, Group Says

Extreme rainstorms are occurring 33 percent more frequently in Virginia since 1948, according to a new Environment Virginia report. Based on an analysis of state data from the National Climatic Data Center, the report released on 31 July found that heavy downpours that used to happen once every 12 months on average in state now happen every nine months on average. Moreover, the biggest storms are getting bigger. The largest annual storms in Virginia now produce 11 percent more precipitation, on average, than they did 65 years ago.

<http://manassas.patch.com/articles/extreme-rain-storms-more-frequent-in-virginia-group-says-3a4d4f61>

Environment Virginia Research and Policy Center report:

<http://www.environmentvirginia.org/reports/vae/when-it-rains-it-pours>

Half of U.S. Counties Now Considered Disaster Areas

Nearly 220 counties in a dozen drought-stricken states were recently added to the U.S. government's list of natural disaster areas as the nation's agriculture chief unveiled new help for frustrated, cash-strapped farmers and ranchers grappling with extreme dryness and heat. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's addition of the 218 counties means that more than half of all U.S. counties — 1,584 in 32 states — have been designated primary disaster areas this growing season, the vast majority of them mired in a drought that's considered the worst in decades.

<http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/half-of-us-counties-now-considered-disaster-areas/4349d550c69d08e9803e25ccb891e100.html>

FEMA Selects WebEOC Crisis Management System

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has selected ESI, a supplier of crisis information management technology, to deliver and implement a new crisis management system (CMS) for the agency. The WebEOC-based CMS will support emergency management processes and functions, and provide a common operating picture with comprehensive situational awareness for FEMA and its federal, state, local and tribal strategic partners. The WebEOC CMS will feature mission-tasking, event reporting, resource tracking and situation analysis in real-time during daily operations, exercises, national responses and other operations. Introduced in 1998, WebEOC is an Internet-enabled, user-friendly and locally-configurable incident and event management system. With access to the Internet, authorized emergency managers and first responders, regardless of location, can enter and view incident information in WebEOC status boards.

http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/26938?c=disaster_preparedness_emergency_response

Hogs Fall as CDC Flu Alert May Cut Pork Demand; Cattle Decline

(Aug. 6) Hog futures fell on speculation that U.S. pork demand will decrease after the government issued an alert about an influenza virus related to swine. Cattle also dropped. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 12 U.S. cases of the H3N2v influenza virus, 11 of which occurred in people who had attended county fairs where swine were present. There is no evidence the virus can be transmitted through properly handled pork, the CDC said. Hog futures tumbled to the lowest in more than six years in 2009 after an outbreak of the H1N1 virus, initially dubbed "swine flu." "We have some concern that the CDC put out an advisory on swine flu at county fairs," said Rich Nelson, the director of research for Allendale Inc. in McHenry, Illinois. "So, there's also a little concern for U.S. pork demand." Hog futures for October settlement dropped 0.9 percent to 75.175 cents a pound at 1 p.m. on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, after earlier falling to 75.1 cents, the lowest since Dec. 17, 2010.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-08-06/hogs-fall-as-cdc-flu-alert-may-cut-pork-demand-cattle-decline>

Only 66 Percent of Companies Are Prepared

The best crisis management is to take steps to reduce the likelihood of a crisis happening in the first place. But many companies lack even the most basic elements to be ready for a crisis when it does happen. The latest data from a survey of more than 750 investor relations professionals around the world shows only two thirds of companies have formal crisis planning in place. Moreover, only half of those with a plan conduct crisis simulation exercises. The study for Investor Relations Insight reported the IR professionals interviewed placed corporate reputation as the top priority in a crisis, ahead of share price and shareholder retention.

<http://www.commpro.biz/corporate-communications/crisis-communications-corporate-communications/the-risk-of-a-crisis-versus-the-risk-of-not-being-crisis-prepared/>

State Fair Officials Concerned About Swine Flu

An outbreak of swine flu is prompting state and county fair officials in about a dozen states to check pigs for the disease and urge fairgoers to be extra cautious around the animals this summer. The precautions — including hand-washing stations and warning signs for children, the elderly and expectant mothers — come at the height of the nation's agricultural fair season, when farm children exhibit their livestock for city dwellers and suburbanites to see and even pet. The number of cases hit 162 Friday [Aug. 10], an "extraordinary" increase from 13 swine flu cases for all of last season, says Lyn Finelli, an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Most of the cases have emerged in the Midwest. Many were reported in children who had contact with pigs at fairs in

Indiana and Ohio.

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2012-08-12/swine-flu-state-fairs/57016138/1>

Verizon Details Errors in Derecho, Calls Response to 9-1-1 Outages "Insufficient"

Verizon officials did not know that 9-1-1 emergency service was out in Fairfax County during June's derecho storm until the county called to tell them, according to a Verizon executive and a company report to be released this week to local governments. The report, to be presented Wednesday [Aug. 15] to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, for the first time acknowledges widespread failures in Verizon's 9-1-1 emergency backup systems during the storm. It also admits significant problems with Arlington County's 9-1-1 service that Verizon had previously denied. In addition, the report says drained batteries, faulty generators and the failure of a technician to thoroughly explore the cause of troubles extended the delays in restoring full 9-1-1 service to nearly 2.3 million residents in Fairfax, Arlington and Prince William counties and Manassas and Manassas Park.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/crime/verizon-details-errors-in-derecho-calls-response-to-911-outages-insufficient/2012/08/13/e2589596-e57f-11e1-8741-940e3f6dbf48_story.html

El Nino Likelihood Rising, Signaling Chance for Snowy Winter

The likelihood of El Nino is increasing, with onset of the climate phenomenon known for snowy winters expected by fall. There is "increased confidence" in a weak to moderate El Nino, according to the Climate Prediction Center. Forecasters included the information in an update to the hurricane season outlook issued last week, saying it could impact those storms by late in the season.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/weather/weather-blog/bal-wx-el-nino-chance-for-snowy-winter-20120813,0,537707.story>

Disaster Preparedness – Is Your Facility Ready for the Worst

In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina touched down in southeast Louisiana as a Category 3 storm, leaving in its wake a battered populace and a woefully underprepared and overworked emergency response system. A number of hospitals languished under water for weeks. "There was no police department, no telephone service, no power," says Norris Yarbrough, VP of Emergency Preparedness for Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans. "All you saw was pitch-black where there was once a city." Immediately following the catastrophe, Ochsner was the only health care facility able to serve the community. Now Yarbrough is among a growing group of health care professionals who have experienced major disasters firsthand and have picked up lessons they're sharing with others.

<http://www.dotmed.com/news/story/19180/>

It's Hot Now, But Forecasters See a Big Winter Coming

Last winter, big cities like New York and Philadelphia saved a lot of money because the Northeast had a snow drought. Not so this winter. Yes, even while air conditioners are still running, meteorologists are beginning to focus on the long-term winter weather forecast. And, it looks as if the I-95-corridor cities from Washington to Boston will need to make sure the plows are gassed up and rock salt plentiful.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/48679412/ns/us_news-christian_science_monitor/#.UC444KBGRj4

Nation's Power Grid Faces Tough Tests in Future

Extreme weather is putting America's power grid to the test, with a year-long run of violent storms and record heat battering a system built for fairer skies. As the eastern United States struggles to recover from yet another weather shock, energy officials are acknowledging climate change as a force that finally has to be reckoned with – even as concern grows over other threats that can set off catastrophic blackouts.

<http://www.newsleader.com/article/20120825/NEWS01/308230030/Nation-s-power-grid-faces-tough-tests-future>

Homeland Security Films Informational But Costly

Over the last four years the mayor's office of Public Safety and Homeland Security in Houston, TX, has spent \$540,000 dollars to produce three short videos teaching people how to react in public safety emergencies. The price tag has some people upset.

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Homeland-Security-films-are-a-big-hit-but-costly-3799862.php>

West Nile Virus Human Case Count in Virginia Reaches Four

Four people in Virginia have been sickened with West Nile virus disease so far this season. Virginia has typically averaged one to five human West Nile virus disease cases in recent years.

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/2012/aug/29/tdmet03-west-nile-virus-human-case-count-in-virgin-ar-2154433/>

FLU

Pandemic Planning: New Model of Disease Contagion Ranks U.S. Airports in Terms of Spreading Influence

Public health crises of the past decade — such as the 2003 SARS outbreak, which spread to 37 countries and caused about 1,000 deaths, and the 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic that killed about 300,000 people worldwide — have heightened awareness that new viruses or bacteria could spread quickly across the globe, aided by air travel. A new study by researchers in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) has looked at the first few days of a future pandemic, determining how likely the 40 largest U.S. airports are to influence the spread of a contagious disease originating in their home cities. This new approach could help determine appropriate measures for containing infection in specific geographic areas and aid public health officials in making decisions about the distribution of vaccinations or treatments in the earliest days of contagion. Unlike existing models, the new MIT model incorporates variations in travel patterns among individuals, the geographic locations of airports, the disparity in interactions among airports, and waiting times at individual airports to create a tool that could be used to predict where and how fast a disease might spread. The MIT model highlights flaws with pandemic plans based on simple random diffusion models. For example, a simplified model using random diffusion might say that half the passengers at the Honolulu airport will go to San Francisco and half to Anchorage, Alaska, taking the disease and spreading it to passengers at those airports, who would randomly travel and continue the contagion. In fact, while the Honolulu airport gets only 30 percent as much air traffic as New York's Kennedy International Airport, the new model predicts that it is nearly as influential in terms of contagion, because of where it fits in the air transportation network. Its location in the Pacific Ocean and its many connections to distant, large and well-connected hubs gives it a ranking of third in terms of contagion-spreading influence. Kennedy Airport is ranked first by the model, followed by airports in Los Angeles, Honolulu, San Francisco, Newark, Chicago (O'Hare) and Washington (Dulles). Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, which is first in number of flights, ranks eighth in contagion influence. Boston's Logan International Airport ranks 15th.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news06386.html>

Fairgoers Sickened by New Swine Flu Stain

Attending the county fair can expose you to the risk of a new type of swine flu. Health officials said Friday [Aug. 3] that nearly 20 people have gotten sick in the past year after coming in close contact with pigs at county or state fairs. A dozen cases have been reported this week, with 10 coming from a county fair held last weekend in southwest Ohio. The "H3N2" flu strand is still largely a swine virus, limited to pigs, with no evidence yet suggesting humans can pass the illness to one another, said Dr. Joseph Bresee, an epidemiologist in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Influenza Division, in a teleconference with reporters on Friday [Aug. 3]. But the virus carries genetic similarities with the H1N1 swine flu virus that sickened hundreds of thousands globally in 2009 and 2010. So far, pigs seem to only be able to sicken one or two humans each, though researchers are closely monitoring whether the H3N2 virus starts to become more transmissible among people, Bresee said. Both the H3N2 and H1N1 viruses have the M gene, which might signal the potential for humans to spread the disease among themselves.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/health/2012/08/03/fairgoers-sickened-by-new-swine-flu-stain/>

Canada: How H1N1 hit St. Theresa Point

In the span of just 22 days during the H1N1 pandemic, at least 40 percent of all babies on the remote St. Theresa Point reserve were sick with the flu. That's according to a Health Canada study published recently in the Canadian

Journal of Public Health detailing the spread of H1N1 through the First Nations community in 2009, an outbreak made worse by the reserve's lack of proper sewer-and-water services. According to researchers, the first wave of the flu outbreak hit St. Theresa Point early and hard, resulting in 180 confirmed or suspected cases. St. Theresa Point's babies had an alarmingly high "attack rate." Forty percent of all children under the age of one got infected with the flu. The researchers said the chief and council, community and government did almost everything right when it came to battling the epidemic. Extra nurses and doctors were rapidly mobilized. Infection-control measures such as masks, cough hygiene and handwashing protocols were emphasized in the community with an extensive awareness campaign. Schools were closed and social gatherings were cancelled. Those measures usually help, but not in St. Theresa Point, partly because the H1N1 virus was already widespread.

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/bad-days-for-st-theresa-point-164986406.html>

Is the "Hype" on Swine Flu for the Birds or People or All of the Above?

Contributing Editor Jordan Schaul looks at the "hype" surrounding the recent epidemic of swine flu, its ecology and nomenclature system, and the perception concerning emerging influenza strains in the context of domestic and exotic animal species.

<http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2012/08/12/is-the-hype-on-swine-flu-for-the-birds-or-people-or-all/>

Pay Attention to Prevention

Health Officials Remind Residents that Prevention is Best Way to Combat Mosquito-borne Illness

The last days of summer are upon us, but the mosquito breeding and biting season is not yet over. While Virginians continue to enjoy outdoor activities and Labor Day picnics, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) urges everyone to "Pay Attention to Prevention." It is the best way to combat mosquito-borne (arboviral) illnesses, such as those caused by West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that nationwide WNV is spreading faster than it has in years past, partly due to a mild winter and several spring rains that allowed the mosquito population to build early. As of August 28, 2012, WNV disease has been reported in four Virginians. This is not unusual in Virginia: there were 9 reports of WNV disease in humans last year; for 2006 to 2010, WNV disease was reported in 1 to 5 persons annually. As of Monday, Aug. 27, Virginia has reported one case of human disease caused by Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus. Virginia's report is only the third case in the U.S. so far this year; the last report of human EEE disease in Virginia was in 2003. In addition, one case of disease caused by the La Crosse encephalitis virus has been reported. Many of these mosquito-borne illnesses can be prevented by controlling the mosquito population and protecting against mosquito bites in the following ways:

- Wear long, loose and light-colored clothing
- If possible, stay indoors when mosquitoes are biting.
- Use insect repellent with the smallest percentage of DEET necessary for the length of time you are exposed to mosquitoes. Use according to the manufacturer's directions and DEET should not be applied to infants under two months old.
- Turn over or remove containers in your yard where water collects, such as old tires, potted plant trays, buckets and toys.
- Eliminate standing water on tarps or flat roofs.
- Clean out birdbaths and wading pools once a week.
- Clean roof gutters and downspout screens.

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/PressReleases/2012/082912WNV.htm>

Fairfax County Flu Preparedness

Be sure to visit the county's flu Web page for information on upcoming events and other preparedness news.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu>

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

IPR Center Annual Symposium

Sept. 20; IPR Center, Arlington, Va.

The National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) will host a symposium to address emerging intellectual property threats Thursday, Sept. 20, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the IPR Center, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington. The symposium will highlight a number of growing threats including corporate identity theft and the theft of trade secrets, as well as showcase Operation in Our Sites, a sustained law enforcement initiative to protect consumers by targeting counterfeit and piracy on the Internet. The symposium will also address the impact of such threats and the interventions utilized by the public and private sectors to address these issues. The symposium will bring together law enforcement, rights holders, and industry experts working to fight intellectual property theft, and offers an excellent opportunity for attendees to meet key players involved in tackling emerging threats.

http://www.iprcenter.gov/reports/papers-on-intellectual-property-theft/copy_of_2012SymposiumRegistrationForm.pdf/view

Cybersecurity Conference

Oct. 22-23; Washington, D.C.

Educational tracks will focus on current government cyber initiatives in these two dedicated tracks:

- Communication and Strategy for Cybersecurity Programs.
- Tactics, Tools, and Technologies for Incident Prevention and Response.

Get advice and best practices from IT leaders on how to overcome threats, as well as secure your agency's cyber environment by attending this 2 day conference

<http://govcyber.com/Events/2012/Home.aspx>

IAEM Annual Conference

Oct. 26-Nov. 1; Orlando, Fla.

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) will host the annual IAEM Conference, Oct. 26-Nov. 1, in Orlando, Fla. The theme of this year's conference is "Resilience."

<http://www.iaem.com/>

2013 Mid-Atlantic Expo and Symposium

Feb. 21-24, 2013; Virginia Beach, Va.

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association is calling for presenters for its 2013 Mid-Atlantic Expo and Symposium Feb. 21-24, 2013, at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. Presentation subject matter can include, but is not limited to strategy and tactics; EMS, ICS, leadership; management; safety and health; new initiatives/concepts/trends; case studies; etc.

http://www.vfca.us/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92&Itemid=108

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=134

Virginia Emergency Management Courses

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

FEMA Independent Study Courses

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

American Red Cross Disaster Services Training

http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster_registration.php

LINKS

Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources

- Fairfax County Emergency Information Blog – <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog>
- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>
- Virginia Citizen Corps - <http://www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm>

DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate has a free newsletter, "S&T Snapshots," featuring stories about current research projects and opportunities with laboratories, universities, government agencies, and the private sector. The newsletter is produced monthly by the DHS Science and Technology Directorate in partnership with the Homeland Security Institute, a Studies and Analysis Federally Funded Research and Development Center.

<http://www.homelandsecurity.org/snapshots/>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based "Daily OSIR," which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title "Current Report." This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title "DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report." This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-3421 or by e-mail at NICCRReports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at:

http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

The county's emergency information page features easy navigation and a clean look so that residents can easily find emergency information.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

Emergency Management Magazine

<http://www.govtech.com/em/toc.php>

FEMA Private Sector

<http://www.fema.gov/privatesector/>

FAIRFAX COUNTY 703-817-7771
EMERGENCY
INFORMATION LINE

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To Unsubscribe:

E-mail publicaffairs@fairfaxcounty.gov with “Remove from ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update” in the subject line and you will be immediately removed from the distribution list.

In accordance with NIMS – the National Incident Management System – the Fairfax County Emergency Operations Plan states that Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) is led by the Office of Public Affairs. This ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update is part of the county's outreach efforts for our business and nonprofit partners as a way to provide information about the county's ESF 15, Homeland Security and emergency management.

Please feel free to forward this ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update to other contacts you have inside or outside your organization. Should someone you know like to be added to our distribution list, have them send an e-mail to jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov and ask to be subscribed to the ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update.

If you have any suggestions on how to improve this update or other communications between Fairfax County and the business/nonprofit community, please contact Merni Fitzgerald, Director of the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or by e-mail at merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is designed to provide information about Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) along with news articles and informational updates relating to Homeland Security and emergency management to ESF 15 partners. Inclusion of any resource, information or Web link is not an endorsement of the product, service or organization. The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is produced by Fairfax County's Office of Public Affairs – the lead agency for ESF 15.